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Sudets Assesses USSR Air Defense Capability (Possible to Destroy "All"
Means of Air Attack)

"The PVO Strany Troops, as a branch of our glorious Armed Forces, are in a constant high state of combat readiness to repulse means of air and space attacks of imperialist aggressors. The sentries of the Soviet skies are on the alert day and night. They represent a terrific force which is capable, together with the entire Soviet Army, of honorable defending the Motherland and reliable guarding the peaceful labor to the Soviet people, who are building communism...

"Since the victorious termination of the Great Patriotic War, the Communist Party and the Soviet Government have done a tremendous amount of work toward strengthening peace. But the aggressive imperialist forces headed by the US, which is playing the role of an international gendarme, immediately began an arms race and have feverishly engaged in preparations for a nuclear war against the Soviet Union and the other socialist countries. They are devoting particular attention to the development of nuclear weapons and means of air and space attack, which have been assigned the main role in reaching targets during the initial period of war... The Pentagon's plans call for a further increase in rocket and nuclear means, as well as the re-equipment of the air force with modern, high altitude supersonic aircraft.

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"The US military clique is paying great attention to the exploitation of space for military purposes...

"Even now in peacetime the US means of air and space attack are being maintained in a state of high combat readiness...The US Armed Forces are waging a predatory war in Vietnam. The US Air Force is carrying out strikes against objectives of a sovereign state, North Vietnam...

"All this enhances the responsibility of our PVO Troops. Their task consists of preventing the breakthrough of enemy means of air and space attack -- in case of an imperialist attempt at unleashing a war -- to the protected areas, objectives, and troop groupings, and of thus ensuring the viability of the state and the capability of other branches of the Armed Forces to deal devastating strikes against the enemy (prikryvayemye rayony, ob'yekty i gruppirovki voysk i tem obespechit' zhiznedeystel'nost' gosudarstva i vozmozhnost' drugim vidam Vooruzhennykh Sil dlya naneseniya sokrushayushchikh udarov po vragu).

"Owing to the constant concern of the party and the tremendous achievements of our people in the development of the economy, science, and technology, radical and genuinely revolutionary changes have taken place in all

branches of the Armed Forces, including the PVO Troops. Complex military technical problems have been solved by the efforts of gifted scientists, engineers, technicians and industrial workers. Models of our rockets were put on display at the 1964 and 1965 military parades. They are capable of destroying enemy means of air and space attack at any altitude and at great distances from the protected areas and objectives (ot prikryvayemykh rayonov i ob'yektov).

"The PVO Troops are equipped with the most modern surface-to-air rocket systems, rocket-carrying fighter-interceptors, and highly perfected radioelectronic equipment. The surface-to-air systems make it possible to destroy all means of air attack at all altitudes and flight speeds regardless of the time of day, meteorological conditions or radio jamming, and the employment of nuclear charges increases even more the combat efficiency of our troops. (Zenitnyye raketnyye kompleksy posvolayayut unichtozhat' vse sredstva vozdušnogo napadeniya na vsekhn vysotakh i skorostyakh ikh poleta nezavisimo ot vremeni sutok, meteorologicheskikh usloviy i radiopomekh. A primeneniye yadernykh zaryadov yeshche bol'she povyshayet boyevuyu effektivnost' nashikh voysk).

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"Supersonic speeds, vast operational ranges, and a wide range of altitudes available for combat operations are the distinguishing features of the modern rocket-carrying fighter aircraft. The existence of radar and powerful rocket armament enables them to intercept targets at great distances and to destroy enemy carrier planes even before these planes come within range of effectively launching their air-to-ground cruise missiles (perekhvat tseley na bol'shikh dal'nostyakh i unichtozhat' vrazheskiye samolety-nositeli yeshche do rubezha puska imi krylatykh raket 'vozdukh-zemlya'). In case of necessity we can concentrate the required air forces at the decisive sector for the purpose of routing the main grouping of enemy means of attack.

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"The radiotechnical troops are accomplishing the tasks of timely detection and identification of means of air and space attack and of supplying all troops with data on the aerial situation. Modern communication means and special automated control systems are being used at all echelons, systems which make it possible rapidly and accurately to process data on the air and space situation and to adopt decisions on the formulating of combat tasks. (Vo vsekhn zven'yakh primenyayutsya sovremennyye sredstva svyazi i spetsial'nyye avtomatizirovannyye sistemy upravleniya, kotoryye dayut vozmozhnost' bystro i tochno obrabatyvat' dannyye o vozdušno-kosmicheskoy obstanovke i prinimat' resheniya na postanovku boyevykh zadach).

"But it is not always the number and quality of armaments that determine the combat power of the PVO Troops. The skill of our servicemen is constantly growing. They are people with high moral and fighting qualities, ardent patriots, boundlessly dedicated to their people, the party, and the cause of communism.

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"The standards of officer training have increased considerably; about 25 percent of the officers now have a higher military education and the remaining officer personnel have secondary general or military education. More than 80 percent of PVO soldiers are communist or Komsomol members. High indexes in the mastery of combat equipment, in its practical handling, and in the setting up of units and groups of units have been achieved in the troops. The ranks of excellent trainees in combat and political training are growing.

"All unit and subunit commanders are class specialists. A considerable part of the rank-and-file and non-commissioned personnel also have high qualifications. Most of the soldiers, sergeants and officers have mastered related skills and are able to substitute for their comrades in combat work. Many soldiers and sergeants have been trained to discharge the duties of officer-technicians. The results of air and rocket firings last year, the overwhelming majority of which was accomplished with high marks, testify to the high level of troop training.

"A high degree of combat readiness calls for intensive work on the part of all servicemen and for coordination in the operations of combat teams and units since modern air defense weapons are weapons requiring teamwork. Success in their use is achieved above all by a profound technical knowledge and practical skill on the part of every soldier, sergeant and officer and by their ability rapidly and accurately to discharge their duties and, in case of necessity, even to replace their comrades.

"Now the PVO Strany Troops, as well as all the people, are persistently working to respond to the 23rd CPSU Congress resolutions with new successes in raising the combat power and combat readiness of their troops and in further strengthening the defense capability of the beloved Soviet Motherland."

"A Reliable Guard of the Soviet Sky," by
Mar Avn V. SUDETS, commander in chief of
PVO Strany Troops and Deputy Minister of Defense USSR
Moscow, Sovetskaya Rossiya, 19 April 1966

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